IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION OF:)
)

Ornan A. Gerstel et al.   )

Serial No.: Unassigned   )

Filed: herewith   )

For: FAULT MANAGEMENT IN   )
        A MULTICHANNEL   )
        TRANSMISSION   )
        SYSTEM   )
)

Examiner: Ricardo M. Pizzaro   )
)

Group Art Unit: 2732   )

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, BOX APPLICATION, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 4, 2001 as No. EL186129512US

By: _Ronald E. Larson_
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, kindly add the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/039,665, filed March 16, 1998, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/618,652, filed March 19, 1966, now U.S. Patent No. 5,729,527, which claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/009,300, filed December 29, 1995.

On page 10, lines 1-2, kindly delete the first paragraph and substitute the following:

FIG. 6B line card # 5 fails and its I/O is routed to link 30' of card # 7 on the spare via 61, 45' and 62.

In the claims:

Kindly cancel claims 1-11 and substitute the following claims 12-17:

12.   (New) A method for managing a communication system, comprising:

connecting each line card in a group of line cards to a spare line card local port of a spare line card in the group of line cards; and

upon detection of a failed line card in the group of line cards, rerouting an I/O port of the failed line card through a local port of the failed line card to its spare line card local port, then to a spare line card link port.

13.   (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the group of line cards includes an integer number k of non-spare line cards, and wherein the spare line card includes at least k spare line card local ports.

14.   (New) The method of claim 12, wherein rerouting comprises switching the I/O port of the failed line card through the local port of the failed line card to its spare line card local port, then switching the spare line card local port to the spare line card link port.

-2-

15.   (New) A communication sub-system, comprising:

a spare line card having a plurality of spare line card local ports, a spare line card link port, and a first switch for connecting the spare line care link port to one of the spare line card local ports; and

a plurality of non-spare line cards, each of the plurality of non-spare line cards having an I/O port, a local port connected to one of the plurality of spare line card local ports, and a second switch for rerouting the I/O port through the local port to the spare line care local port upon determination of a failure.

16.   (New) The communication sub-system of claim 15, wherein the plurality of line cards includes an integer number k of line cards, and wherein the spare line card includes at least k spare line card local ports.

17.   (New) The communication sub-system of claim 16, wherein the first switch is at least a 1 x (k +1) switch.
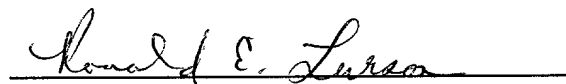
REMARKS

Claims 12-17 correspond to claims 36-41 of the parent application (application no. 09/039,665) which were cancelled by the Examiner without prejudice in the notice of allowance mailed February 28, 2001.

The amendment to page 10 also was entered in the parent application.

Also enclosed is the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 4, 2001

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-4-

ATTACHMENT SHOWING AMENDMENT TO PAGE 10 OF SPECIFICATION

Kindly delete the first paragraph of page 10 and substitute the following:

FIG. 6B line card # [0] 5 fails and its I/O is routed to link 30' of card # [2] 7 on the spare via 61, 45' and 62.